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GOVERNOR ESTABLISHES COUNCIL ON INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

(PHOENIX) - Governor Janet Napolitano today signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Innovation and Technology, a panel made up of high tech business leaders that will meet to recommend ideas for energizing the industry. The Council will include committees on capital formation, technology transfer and infrastructure and supply chain development.

The Council will be headed by Ed Zito, the highly respected President of Comerica's Mountain States Region. Zito's background includes commercial banking with a specialty in high tech business. Zito will be joined by more than two dozen prominent leaders in the high tech field, including Quinn Williams, corporate partner and Chairman of the Emerging Business and Venture Capital Group for the international law firm of Greenberg Traurig; and Pat Stoner, CEO of Stoner-Roland, LLC, a senior management resource firm that specializes in small- and medium-sized businesses.

Other high-tech industry leaders who will serve on the Council include Roy Vallee, CEO of Avnet; Richard Pieranunzi, CEO of ST Microelectronics; Steve Sanghi, CEO of Microchip Technologies; Louise Franesconi, President of Missile Systems at Raytheon; and Ed Koopman, General Manager of Boeing's Arizona Operations.

"There are tremendous growth prospects in the high tech world and having these minds together in one group will help Arizona tap into that potential," said Napolitano. "Their ideas will help us move the state forward in the new economy."

The Council on Innovation and Technology will focus on implementing a statewide strategy for a smooth transfer of technology from universities to the private sector; attracting more venture capital to the state to assist growing and new tech-based businesses; and develop Arizona's infrastructure so that it can support tech growth. Additionally, the Council will provide ongoing long-term policy input to the Governor.